



## UOW Ceremonial Gowns History





#### Arms of the University

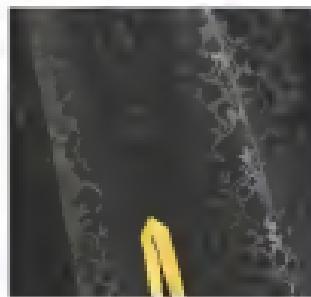
The principal elements incorporated in the Arms of the University are the blue of the sea, the gold of the sand and the red of the Hawaiki flame tree. The open book often used for educational institutions has also been included.

#### The Masonic:

"Aureo a Book impended Argent bound red clasped Or on a Chief of the last three crozier-like pierced Gules".

## Preface

The UoM Ceremonial Gowns History commemorative booklet showcases the gowns worn by the University of Wellington's Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors through the years in graduations and other official ceremonies. It follows on from an historical exhibition produced by the University Library in December 2002 and the launch of a permanent online exhibition in 2003. The booklet also captures some of the history behind UoM's ceremonial and academic dress traditions.



# A Brief History of Ceremonial and Academic Dress

Wearing ceremonial or academic dress is a tradition dating back to medieval times and the oldest universities in Europe. The masters and scholars in these institutions were typically members of the medieval clergy so they wore ecclesiastical versions of the ordinary everyday clothes of that era. The official dress code of graduates and many other formal occasions at modern universities is originally also built from this early style of dress.

Students who are about to graduate are referred to as graduates. Staff and graduates wear gowns (sometimes called robes) and appropriate styles of hoods with coloured linings and headwear in accordance with their official role or highest academic qualifications.

Different colours are used to indicate different academic degrees. Contrary to some assumptions there are no "traditional" faculty colours that must be followed, unless otherwise instructed, since university is free to choose its own unique range of colours. Academic staff or university officers who are graduates wear the gowns of the universities from which they graduated with their highest degree.

Headwear takes the form of either a stiff academic cap with a flat square top (known as a mortarboard or academic cap) or round soft beret with a soft form (sometimes called a Tudor beret). A coloured tassel is typically draped over the side of the cap or beret. On certain styles of beret the tassel hangs from a thin beaded cord.

Many universities in Australia and other Commonwealth countries, including the University of Wellington, have modified aspects of their ceremonial and academic dress and their positions on the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.



# History of UOW Gowns

## The INUC Era

During the era of the Wollongong University College (UOW's predecessor) in the mid-1960s, students and staff members, academic staff and students wore the ceremonial and graduation dress of the College's parent institution, the University of New South Wales. The UNSW Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor performed the official roles in graduation and other ceremonies held at Wollongong, accompanied by the College Warden Professor C.M. Gray (the most senior staff member at the Wollongong campus). Graduates wore the traditional UNSW black gowns.

## The UOW Era

After achieving university status in 1979, the new University of Wollongong was able to appoint its own Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and adopt its own style of ceremonial and academic dress. A Committee of Convenors was established and given the task of recommending to University Council on all aspects of ceremonial, including the matter of academic dress. This saw the introduction of the striking blue gowns for UOW graduates, a colourful change from the conventional black student gowns worn during the College era. The colour was chosen to reflect the sea along the Illawarra coastline. The black and gold and black and blue ceremonial gowns of UOW's first Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor were very much based on the traditional British style. They were however lined with blue wool in a nod to the colour of the new student gowns.

## First appearance of the Ceremonial Gowns

The Gownster was officially presented with his gown during the 1979 Ceremony of Inauguration and Graduation held on stage in the impressive surroundings of the Wollongong Town Hall. This was the first ceremony at which students graduated from the autonomous University of Wollongong. The Vice-Chancellor's gown students first appeared at the following year's ceremony.

Writing about that first UOW graduation, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Hart observed: "The University's academic dress [was] worn for the first time at the ceremony. The students' regalia blue gowns with the various hoods of red gold, green red, silver and blue brightened the scene with the University's first PhD graduate represented in blue trimmed with red gold, and a blue and red teacher. The University's first Chancellor, Mr Justice Roden Hagon was robed in the gold and black Chancellor's gown by the University's Warden the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler" (UOW Annual Report 1979, p. 8).

## Design Changes Over the Years

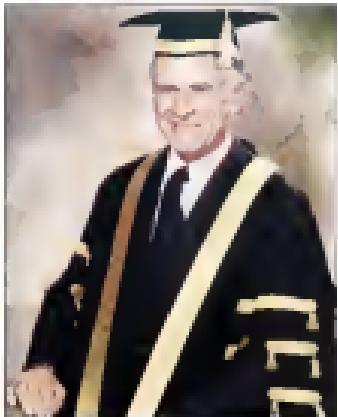
Several changes were introduced to the fabric and pattern design aspects of Chancellors' gowns in later years, which were subsequently reflected in the Vice-Chancellors' gowns. These changes are outlined in the following pages of this booklet. The current Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors' gowns now have a style more reflective of the University's Australian setting, as well as a close tie with the Masters' regalia.



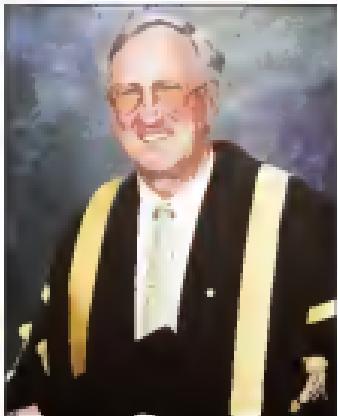
1. 1979 students in their blue gowns in 1979. 2. Professor C.M. Gray and Justice-Chancellor Professor Roden Hagon at the last graduation ceremony held under UNSW in 1975. Four scenes from the 1979 Graduation and Ceremony of Inauguration. 3. Inauguration using Bunting Room in the Wollongong Town Hall. 4. Chancellor Hagon receiving his ceremonial gown. 5. The Wollongong Town Hall stage. 6. Chancellor Hagon and UOW's first Deputy-Chancellor David Hartley.

## The Chancellors

Judge Robert Marsden Hope  
AC, CMB  
Foundation Chancellor  
August 1975 – September 1987



Michael Codd AC  
Chancellor  
October 1987 – September 2009



Jillian Broadbent AD  
Chancellor  
October 2009 –





### Design of the Chancellor's Gown

The style of the Chancellor's gown was proposed by the University's Committees Committee and finally approved by the University Council in October 1929. This was for "a gown of black damask faced with blue and bordered with gold" and "a broader strip of black with a gold border." There have been four versions of the Chancellor's gown over the years.

The first gown was worn by Justice Hope throughout his 22 years as Chancellor. It was of black Statuary damask with gold braid here and there on the sleeves, a wide gold braid band from across the breast and a blue sash with a gold border, echoing the blue of the new LDR student gowns. His train was made of black velvet with gold braid trim and a gold train.



Chancellor Caillard, the University's second Chancellor, wore a very identical to his father's black damask gown and train, except that of the professor during the early years in his role. The gold braid trim and train on Chancellor Caillard's gown, however, were slightly different; the train is now closed (the sleeves were distinguished by their larger domed shaped seven buttons). Prior to receiving this gown he too had worn the original Chancellor's gown.



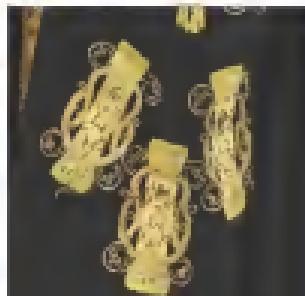


A green robe of a more light-weight black lined fabric was introduced for the Chancellor in June 2009. This was far more suitable for the hot summer conditions experienced during the increasing number of December graduation ceremonies as well as for the ceremonies the Chancellor now attended at the University's campuses in Dubai (UAE). The robe features a different gold trim design comprising shoulder embroidery of a band of gold oak leaves, a more ornate gold and red floral embroidery down the lower sleeves and a wide gold horizontal trim across the base. This was the green Chancellor's robe worn for nearly all the ceremonies he presided over during his latter years of service.



Chancellor Broadbent's robe had a slightly different design. It displays the same band of gold oak leaves in the shoulder embroidery complemented by a newly designed gold floral/ambrosia pattern down the lower sleeves. Initially when the gown was made in 2008, the hem was uncladred. A horizontal gold trim was added in early 2010. For her final year Chancellor Broadbent chose a Tudor bonnet, black velvet with gold trim and gold tassels.

The floral ambrosia represents the Flowers of the Warwick Ram's horn tree, signifying the University's proud links with the local region.



## The Vice-Chancellors

Professor (Lindsay) Michael Birt  
AO, CBE  
Foundation Vice-Chancellor  
January 1975 – July 1991



Professor Kenneth McKinnon AO  
Vice-Chancellor  
July 1991 – February 1995



Professor Gerard Sutton AO  
Vice-Chancellor  
February 1995 – December 2011



Professor Paul Wellings CBE  
Vice-Chancellor  
January 2012 –





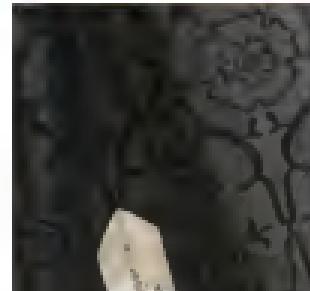
### Design of the Vice-Chancellor's Gown

The style of the Vice-Chancellor's gown modelled on the Chancellor's gown was proposed by the University's Commemorative Committee and formally approved by the University Council in October 1975. This was for "a gown of black silk velvet lined with blue and trimmed with silver" and "a broader cap of black with a silver tassel." There have been three versions of the Vice-Chancellor's gown over the years.

The Vice-Chancellor's gown was made of the same black silk velvet fabric but with silver braid trim and bangles on the sleeves and a wide silver horizontal trim across the front. It has had the blue silk lining to match the colour of the student gowns.

The original gowns of both the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor were made by Mrs R. J. Cooper through her company Graduates and Academic Gowns of Melbourne in South Australia. The subsequent gowns were made by Raymond M. Green & Sons of Melbourne, except for Chancellor Dulah Indra's gown which was made by Elizabeth & Sons, also of Melbourne.

Mrs Cooper designed and manufactured academic dress for many of the Australian universities at the time. She had visited the University earlier in 1973 to meet with the Commemorative Committee and other representatives from UQ to discuss proposed designs under consideration for the gowns.



The new academic dress was one of the many ceremonial uniform items under discussion that year for the newly autonomous University.

The Chancellor's gown was completed first, followed by the Vice-Chancellor's gown in early 1977.

Records held in the University Archives suggest that the first Vice-Chancellor's gown was worn by both Professor Bert and Professor McPherson, who became the University's second Vice-Chancellor in 1981. Both Vice-Chancellors wore a similar version of black velvet with silver braid trim and a silver tassel.





Non-Chancellor Sutton's black academic gown with silver banded trim and tassels, was of a similar trellisboard design to his predecessor's. His gown, however, featured the distinctive bessels with longer dome-shaped seven buttons, seven down each sleeve. This same feature was incorporated into the Chancellor's gown, when Michael David became Chancellor in 1997. Professor Sutton's choice of headwear was a hexagonal black Tudor bonnet with silver tassel.



Non-Chancellor Wellings' gown was designed in a matching style to that of Chancellor Bradfield's gown, with silver bessels. It features the herald of oak leaves in the shoulder heraldry and floral emblem representing the Hawkes Bay tree on the sleeve. As with the Chancellor's gown, when this new gown was originally made the herald was uncoloured. A heraldic silver tassel at the base of the gown was added in early 2013. Professor Wellings' choice of headwear is the black biretta with silver bessels and silver tassel.



# Major Ceremonial Events in UOW History

**1951**

Start of the Wollongong Division of the New South Wales University of Technology (which becomes UOW)

**1961**

Wollongong Division becomes Wollongong University College (WUC)

**1963**

March 26th  
First WUC  
Graduation  
ceremony held  
Early convocation  
event held in the sports  
hall in the Central  
Square (held in one  
the earliest eras of  
campus)

**1976**

June 12th  
First UOW  
Graduation  
ceremony held at the  
Wollongong Town  
Hall. Justice Robert  
Hope formally  
inaugurated UOW's  
First Chancellor

**1981**

May 25th  
Honorary Doctor of  
Letters conferred  
on Vice-Chancellor  
Kinoshita.  
Professor  
Michael Hart of  
the Graduation  
ceremony

**1991**

February 19th  
Official opening  
ceremony for the  
Faculty of Law.  
Honorary Doctor of  
Letters conferred on  
Chairman Hugo St  
Bris, same ceremony

**1994**

October 26th  
Honorary Doctor of  
Letters conferred on  
Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Ken  
McGregor at  
the Graduation  
ceremony

**2009**

December 18th  
Honorary Doctor of  
Letters conferred on  
Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Michael  
Goddard  
at the  
Graduation  
ceremony

**2011**

University celebrates  
its 50th anniversary  
September 28th  
Honorary Doctor of  
Letters conferred on  
Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Michael  
Goddard  
at the  
Graduation  
ceremony

**1950's & 60's**

**1962**

March 1st  
Official opening  
ceremony  
for the Wollongong  
University College

**1975**

Establishment of  
the independent  
University  
of Wollongong  
May 2nd  
First WUC  
Graduation  
ceremony held at the  
Wollongong Town  
Hall

**1970's**

**1977**

Graduation  
ceremony held on  
campus in the new  
Union Hall  
(Commences  
moving to the new  
Gymnasium as  
student numbers  
grew in later years  
then move to the new  
larger University Hall  
where they are still  
held today)

**1980's**

December 8th  
In a special  
graduation  
ceremony Doctor  
of Letters Honorary  
degree was  
conferred on three  
past Prime Ministers  
(Sir John Curtin  
Mr Gough Whitlam &  
Mr Michael Gough)

**1990's**

April 2nd  
Official opening  
ceremony for the  
Glenfern Park  
Campus at Berry  
(predecessor to  
Wollongong Campus)

**1996**

April 8th  
First UOW Doctor  
Graduation  
ceremony held

**2000's**

**2007**

January 20th  
Official ceremony  
held to welcome first  
student cohort in the  
Graduate School of  
Medicine

**2010's**

**2011**

December 28th  
First fully academic  
graduation ceremony  
held for School of  
Medicine

## Images through the Years



Many images have been captured of the Chancellors, the Deputy Chancellors and the Vice-Chancellors in their gowns at graduations and other ceremonies, both of Wellington and other locations where UDN has had an official presence. These range from the opening of the University's first satellite campus in Berry to graduation ceremonies at the Queen campus and from a special graduation ceremony held for Masters students from Papua New Guinea at Parliament House in Port Moresby.





# The other Ceremonial and Honorary Gowns

The University's other categories of ceremonial, honorary and academic gowns have also brought their own range of evolution to come into their current gowns since the first official UWG Graduation ceremony held in 1958. Following a major review of ceremonial and academic dress codes of UWG in February 2013 the University Council approved changes to several of the ceremonial gowns.

## The Deputy Chancellor

The Deputy Chancellor's gown is of an identical design to the Chancellor's but without the horizontal gold trim along the base of the gown. Their headdress is a biretta cap or bonnet of black with a gold tassel. Originally the Deputy were the holder of their own Regent's academic regalia or the gown of a University Council member. When they were presiding at graduation ceremonies in the absence of the Chancellor they would wear the Chancellor's gown. A separate gown was introduced for the Deputy Chancellor in 2003.

## The Deputy Vice-Chancellors and other Senior Executives

The July 2013 graduate ceremonies saw the introduction of ceremonial gowns for each of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors. The December 2013 Graduations saw the introduction of ceremonial gowns for the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Finance Officer. Prior to this each member of the senior executive wore that base of their highest academic degree in the gown of a University Council member. Both new styles of gown echo the design of the Vice-Chancellor's gown but without the shoulder embroidery or horizontal silver trim along the base. The Chief Administrative and the Chief Finance Officers' gowns are distinguished from the Deputy Vice-Chancellors' gowns by the reversing of the colours in the embroidered sleeve emblem (black or silver instead of silver on black). Their headdress is a biretta cap or bonnet of black with a black tassel.

## The Honorary Graduates

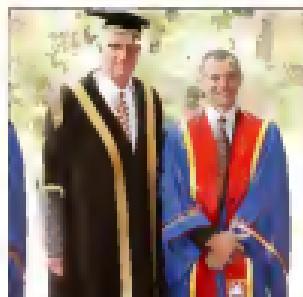
The Honorary Graduate gowns for the Higher Academic degrees of Doctor of Science (DSci), Doctor of Letters (DLit) and Doctor of Laws (LLD) are red with thin silver and feature red bunting on the blue tabs on the stoles. Headdress is a black biretta bonnet with an appropriate coloured silver tassel for the Honorary Doctor of Science and gold for the Doctor of Letters or the Doctor of Laws. The first UWG Honorary degrees were awarded in 1979. The former Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors have all received honorary awards in recognition of their services to the University and have worn their Honorary robes when attending Inter graduation ceremonies.

## The University Fellows

The University Fellow gowns are blue and are draped with the red and gold Council stole featuring the University crest on the left side. The stole has a deep square yoke across the back of the shoulders. There is no Academic Council approved the awarding of the first University Fellowships in 1985.

## The University Council Members

The Clerical gowns are blue with bands of red and gold around the sleeves, red are draped with the red and gold Clerical stole featuring the University crest on the left side. The stole has a deep square yoke across the back of the shoulders. There is no headdress. The blue gowns first worn in 1875 were originally plain. The stole was designed and introduced after 1942. University Council approved the addition of the red and gold trim on the gowns sleeves in 1993 to distinguish between the ceremonial dress of Council members and University Fellows.



1. Deputy Chancellor Michael Dahl wearing his Honorary gown to receive his Doctor of Letters in 2003. 2. A University Fellow wearing their stole. 3. The deep square yoke across the back of the stole. 4. Example of the University Fellow gown. 5. Example of the Council Member gown. 6. The silver tassel featured on the tabs.

# The Academic Gowns

The striking blue student gowns were introduced in 1896 as explained in the tradition outlining the history of UOW gowns. These have matching blue hoods lined in different colours: silver (Up until recent graduation ceremonies the hood silk colour indicated the faculty from which the degree was awarded).

Doctoral students wear a variation of the blue gown with red silk tassels or a red gown hood with blue depicting on the level of their degree.

A member of the academic staff or an officer of the University who is a graduate wears the robe of his or her highest degree. This is why academic gowns from many other Australian and overseas universities often feature in UOW's colourful graduation ceremony processions.

## The Hood Colours

In 2011, the University's 100th anniversary year, the academic degrees conferred were presented according to the following academic dress hood silk colours:

### Bachelor Degrees

Faculty of Arts - Gold  
Faculty of Commerce - Emerald Green  
Faculty of Creative Arts - Olive Green  
Faculty of Education - Charcoal  
Faculty of Engineering - Bright Red  
Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences - White Red  
Faculty of Informatics - Pale Green  
Faculty of Law - Purple  
Faculty of Science - Silver  
Honours Bachelor Degrees - As above with white border  
Graduate School of Medicine - Black

### Master Degrees

Master by Research - As above with red border  
Master by Coursework - Silver with golden brown border  
Master by Research (Sydney Business School) - Light Blue with red border

### Doctoral Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy, PhD - Blue with red border  
Doctor of Creative Arts, DCA - Blue with red border  
Doctor of Education, DEd - Blue with red border  
Doctor of Public Health, DPH - Blue with red border  
Doctor of Business Administration - Blue with red border  
Doctor of Science, DSc - Red with blue border  
Doctor of Letters, DCL - Red with blue border  
Doctor of Laws, LLd - Red with blue border

### Other

Graduate Diploma - Rosepink  
Graduate Diploma (Honours) - No lining, Yellow border  
Graduate Certificate - No lining, Tangerine border

Following the review of ceremonial and academic dress codes in February 2013, the University Council requested a significant change in the traditional hood silk colours of our student gowns. The December 2013 graduation ceremonies mark the transition to the new colours. For undergraduate pass degrees students now wear a blue hood with a light blue silk lining, for undergraduate honours degrees a blue hood with a light blue silk lining and a black border; and for masters by research degrees, a blue hood with a silver silk lining and a red border.



Description of hood colours as worn in 2011: 1. A Bachelor degree hood. 2. An honours Bachelor degree hood. 3. A Masters by Coursework hood. 4. A Masters by Research hood. 5. A blue PhD graduation hood. 6. A red Doctoral degree gown and hood.

# The Ceremonial Gowns Exhibition

The UW Ceremonial Gowns History exhibition was produced to coincide with the December graduation ceremonies in 2013. Five ceremonial gowns and nine Honorary gowns worn by past Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen were placed on display in the University Library's Printed Books

The day of the official Exhibition launch Friday 13 December, also featured the three gowns of the current Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Vice-Chairman, which were on loan for the launch.



1. Exhibition of gowns. 2. Chairman Alan Brooker, Elizabeth Hope [daughter of Chairman Robert Hope] and Vice-Chairman Professor Paul Bellings. 3. The gowns of the current Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Chairman

# The Exhibition Goes Online

The rich historical research and information developed for the original exhibition formed the basis for the subsequent development of a permanent online exhibition. This had the beneficial purpose of preserving the exhibition and the gowns which had been shown together for the final time, enabling the University and wider community to access the stories and a growing range of digitised images now and in the future anywhere, anytime.

The UW Ceremonial Gowns History online exhibition was launched during the July 2013 graduation ceremonies and is promoted through the University Library, University Archives and UWG Graduation websites.

This exhibition showcases the ceremonial gowns worn by the University of Wellington's Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen through the years. It brings together the key permanent physical exhibition presented to former students with historical documents, interviews and case-studies on the many different UWG's ceremonial dress histories.

# Reference sources

- University of Wollongong (UDW) Council Minutes and other official records
- University Of Wollongong Archives: correspondence with long term and former University staff
- UOW Graduation Ceremony: A Brief History -  
<http://www.uow.edu.au/University/graduation/history/index.htm>
- The Burgee Society (for the Study of the History of Academic Dress) -  
<http://www.burgees.org.uk/>
- University of Wollongong Graduation Souvenirs
- Wollongong University College Graduation Souvenirs
- Campus News (University of Wollongong newsletter)
- University of Wollongong Annual Reports

Digitised historical sets of the last four publications are available for further reference via the UOW Library website and the UOW Archives website.

- Photographs from the UOW Archives and UDW Media Unit collections.



Compiled by the University Library  
and University Archives,  
University of Wollongong

Visit the companion online exhibition at  
[www.library.uow.edu.au/exhibitions](http://library.uow.edu.au/exhibitions)

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